



June 2009

# Inside College Station

From the City of College Station • Home of Texas A&M University • College Station, Texas



## Water Is A Limited Resource

For those who have grown up in Texas where everything is big, land is plentiful, clear blue skies are the norm and water is abundant, it's hard to imagine not having plenty of water for the future. It is the responsibility of everyone to make the best use of our limited water resources and begin to take a conservationist attitude toward our water.

The City of College Station has begun a proactive campaign to encourage water conservation. In October of 2008, College Station adopted an inclining water rate structure designed to promote water conservation. With the coming of summer months, when the use of water resources increases drastically, many residents may be surprised that their water bills have increased. This is especially true of those who maintain a large landscape that needs constant watering.

Water rates for residential customers using less than 10,000 gallons per month did not increase at all under the new rate structure.

Usage (Gallons)	Water Rate Effective 10/1/08
<b>Residential</b>	
0 - 10,000	\$2.22
11,000 - 15,000	\$2.88
16,000 - 20,000	\$3.54
21,000 - 25,000	\$4.20
26,000 & Up	\$4.86
<b>Commercial</b>	
All Usage	\$2.44

In an effort to help customers conserve water, the City of College Station has adopted a watering schedule based on the last digit in a customer's address.

The schedule is broken into three groups: commercial and multi-family properties, residential-even numbered addresses, and residential-odd numbered addresses.

<b>College Station Watering Schedule</b>	
Commercial/ Multi-Family	Mon. and/or Fri.
Residential Even Numbered	Tues. and/or Sat.
Residential Odd Numbered	Thurs. and/or Sun.

You can look on your monthly utility statement to see how many gallons you currently use and make an estimate as to your future water costs based upon the following chart.

One "MGW" is 1,000 gallons. The chart below shows water charges for two sample bill amounts:

<b>Sample Water Bill</b>		
Usage (Gallons)	12,000	30,000
0 - 10,000	\$22.20	\$22.20
11,000 - 15,000	\$5.76	\$14.40
16,000 - 20,000	\$0.00	\$17.70
21,000 - 25,000	\$0.00	\$21.00
26,000 & Up	\$0.00	\$24.30
Meter Charge	\$9.99	\$9.99
Total:	\$37.95	\$109.59

Find out how much water are you using by letting College Station Utilities conduct a water audit for you! Call 979-764-6344 to schedule your free water audit today! For more tips on conserving water (and keeping your water bill as low as possible), please go to [www.cstx.gov/water](http://www.cstx.gov/water). To speak with a water representative you may email Jennifer Nations, Water Resource Coordinator at [jnations@cstx.gov](mailto:jnations@cstx.gov) or call 979-764-6223.

Be watching for your annual Water Illustrated Drinking Water Quality Report coming to you around the end of June.



## Utilizing Social Media

Looking for an easier way to stay informed, involved, and up-to-date on City of College

Station news? Join one of several new social media outlets updated regularly by the Public Communications Department. Visit the city's homepage, [www.cstx.gov](http://www.cstx.gov), and click on the "Stay Informed" button to the right for links to all social media tools from the City of College Station including: Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, and the city's own e-newsletter, Access. Check them out now!

## "Oh No! I Have A Warrant For My Arrest" -----

Many questions come to mind when a warrant is issued. In an attempt to reduce the stress we would like to provide some information that may be helpful regarding warrants.

### WARRANT OF ARREST

A "warrant of arrest" is a written order from a judge, directing a peace officer to take into custody a person accused of an offense. In our court, these orders are issued when a person fails to appear in court within a specified amount of time (normally 10 business days) for a ticket or summons they received. They are commonly referred to as "Failure to Appear" or "Violation of Promise to Appear" warrants.

### A CAPIAS PRO FINE

A "capias pro fine" is a written order issued by the court after a judgment has been entered against a person and when that person fails to satisfy the judgment. It is issued when a person pleads or is found guilty but fails to pay the fine. These are normally older cases.

What should you do if you realize there is a warrant for your arrest? To avoid embarrassment you can simply go to the court and take care of the fines and other requirements of the case. Many people are fearful of being arrested at the court. No one will be arrested if their intent is to take care of their case.

The College Station Municipal Court will issue either of these warrants only after several failed attempts to contact the person. Once

the order has been issued, a \$50 warrant fee will be added to the case. Other fees may be added as well.

This information is intended to explain the process and avoid the hassles of warrants.

***Beginning on September 1, 2009, College Station Municipal Court will begin publishing the names of those with active warrants on the City of College Station Web site. There are many opportunities to take care of these issues before they go to warrant status or are published.***

For more information you may contact the College Station Municipal Court at 979-764-3683 or go to the Municipal Court Building located at 300 Krenek Tap Road in College Station.

## Street Light Monitoring System -----

In April, the College Station Utilities began the installation of an Automated Street Light Monitoring System. The City chose ROAM, a division of Acuity Brands Technology Services, Inc., as the provider for this project.

Phase 1 of the installation was completed in the first week of May and included about 2,000 lights along major thoroughfares. Phase 2 of the installation will follow in October and will complete the City's system of about 5,000 lights.

The system will provide street light outage information, system diagnostics, and will allow for controlling "on-off" times for the lights. In accordance with the City's "Green

College Station" initiative, this system will provide energy savings and efficiencies equivalent to taking almost 40 vehicles off the road per year.

"This system is a "win-win-win" opportunity," said Timothy Crabb, Assistant Director of Electric Utilities. "For ROAM, this is the first street light monitoring system to be installed for an entire city in Texas. For the City of College Station, it is a great opportunity to provide better service to our customers while enhancing the operation and efficiency of our street light system. And for our customers, there will be added safety and security while never having to call in another street light outage after the system is complete ... not to mention the fact that the system will pay for itself in less than five years!"

## Fire Department Honored "Hometown Hero" -----



College Station Fire Chief R.B. Alley was recently honored as a "Hometown Hero" by the Bryan-College Station Visitors Bureau at their "Hospitality Celebration" luncheon.

"Our 'Hometown Hero' award is given to recognize those individuals who brought groups to the community through their efforts and planning and therefore promoted tourism in the community," said Heather Platz, Bryan-College Station Visitors Bureau Destination Sales Executive.

In 2008, with the assistance of the Bryan and College Station Fire Departments, Bryan-College Station was host to the Texas Firefighter Olympics. Both fire departments had volunteers for each sporting event, a planning committee of several firemen from both departments, and fundraising efforts on all parts.